



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region 8

**Meeting Date:** March 30, 2007

**Meeting Location:** Vigo County DCS  
30 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Terre Haute, IN 47803

**Council Members Present:** Mike Baker, Vigo County DCS Supervisor; Glenn Cardwell, Vigo County Director; David Uberto, Regional Manager, Region 8; Katie Edington, Parke/Vermillion County Director; Diana Thomson, Clay County FCM; Pamela Connelly, Clay/Sullivan County Director

**Council Members Absent:** Nikki Fuhrmeister, CASA, Vigo County; Hon. Paulette Stagg, Vigo County; James/Linda Scarbrough, Vigo County Foster Parent; Hon. P. J. Pierson, Sullivan; Hon. Bruce Stengel, Vermillion; Hon. Sam Swaim, Parke; Hon. Joseph Trout, Clay.

**Others in Attendance:** Nyala Bolen, Friends of Family; Jody Horstman, Hamilton Center; Peggy Weber, ISU; Suzy Cole, Vigo County DCS Supervisor; Dan Kearns, Terre Haute Youth Intervention Center; James Goodwin, Sullivan County DCS Supervisor; Heidi Wheeler, Vigo/Clay County Supervisor.

Meeting Minutes
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**Meeting Called to Order at:** 9:05 A.M.

Dave Uberto welcomed attendees and led the introductions. Minutes were read from the February and March meetings. There was a correction to the March 30, 2007 minutes. Jody Horstman made a correction to Item #8. Hamilton Center is looking at possible decrease of funding due to Managed Medicaid and not MRO as stated in the minutes. Agenda items were discussed as follows:

1. Strategic Plan Development Update

Dave started out by informing everyone that two positions were created in DCS to report to Stephanie Beasley. Melissa Norman is assigned to the southern region and David Hudkins is assigned to the northern region. Dave met with the Southern Region Executive Manager, Melissa Norman. They went over practice indicators. We are doing well in decreasing substitute care and adoption/reunification rates. We are significantly doing well in the maltreatment area. Our region is doing well on CHINS placements. Residential placements are down. We need to look at foster home placements. On the

length of stay/out of homes area, we need to stay aggressive in monitoring focus on placing siblings together. The region needs to look at decreasing placement moves. We are right around the state average, but want to improve in this area. The team is going to identify 3 - 5 goals. These goals have to be submitted to Central Office by May 25, 2007. Dave would like to send a draft via email to the RSC to review before submitting.

## 2. Fingerprint/Background Check Pilot Program

The State has found a private agency by the name of Pride Rock to do the fingerprinting and background checks for DCS. They are using a secure automated enrollment system. They will register using an online form. The current price for fingerprinting is \$39. The new cost will range from \$53 - \$64. Jody Horstman expressed her concern about the increase in cost. Glenn asked how the cost is broken down. Foster care and relative placement are paid for through State funding. There was discussion of whether this would be an issue with the interns. Will they want to pay this increased cost? Jody stated that her volunteers would have to pay for this out of their pocket, because they don't have the funding to pay for them. Dave asked if there was money in the RSC account to pay for volunteers for the program. Pam said we could write a contract stating they would be involved with our agencies. Glenn and Peggy said it would be nice to have interns fingerprinted before they started their internship. Nyala said the fingerprints mainly apply to one on one working with children. Jody said ongoing and meaningful involvement with children is the rule they use. Dave said he would check into clarification on funding and volunteers.

Nyala said ISU would be an ideal spot for a fingerprint location. Dave will communicate the concern to Central Office about the cost. Nyala asked if we never have a child alone, is it necessary they have fingerprinting done.

## 3. DCS/DFR Transition Update

The transition is moving along with a few bumps concerning expansion of responsibility and space. Region 8 is doing okay and is working out the issues smoothly. Dave is upbeat about the clerical support. Vigo County is continuing on as usual until July 1, 2007. Pam has a lot of employees moving in and out. She is experiencing ACS/DFR giving assignments to DCS clerical to do first before DCS business is taken care of. She stated this has all been worked out. Dave feels Region 8 has done a nice job with the transition. Glenn hopes the ties remain tight because DFR and DCS are resourceful to each other.

#### 4. Community Partners

Nyala reported Community Partners is serving 43 families. In-Data input system is almost completed. She isn't sure anyone can access the website because of confidentiality. It shows the breakdown of the contact logs. 77.25 hours of contacts have been entered for direct services. She is looking at hiring a part-time worker for Clay County. There are still no referrals from Vermillion County. She reported two referrals in Parke and three in Sullivan. Very high risk clients are coming to Community Partners.

Pam asked if Nyala can print information off for the counties to read. Nyala was going to check further on that. She knows there is some information she can make available and some is confidential.

Nyala has a teleconference every two months. The next teleconference is May 3 at 2:30 p.m. Nyala asked Dave to sit in on this conference to learn more about the process.

There will be a video conference on Sexual Abuse of Boys presented by Keila Keltner and Jay Bays on May 10, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is no cost for the conference.

A video conference on Assessing Allegations of Child Maltreatment Within the Context of Child Custody Evaluations presented by Mindy Mitnik is set for May 24, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is no cost for the conference.

#### 5. ISU Intern Update

Three students have been selected for internship program. Clay and Vigo are getting two of the interns. One intern has requested closer to Bloomington. ISU is trying to work with Greene County to get one placed there. Tammy is supposed to find out from Amy Powdrill where Nicole was officially placed.

Peggy extended her appreciation with patience for those involved in the internship program. Mike asked if the school was looking at more block time to be in the office. Peggy is looking to change the schedule some.

#### 6. Vigo County Director Position Update

Interviews are set for May 4, 2007. Susan Lesko will be assisting Dave with the interview process. Dave will be the contact for the director position until the position is filled.

## 7. Additional Business

Dan Kerns, Terre Haute Youth Intervention Center, received license approval for co-ed. He will be sending out letters when they are ready for referrals. They have 12 beds total.

ISU and Hamilton Center will be hosting Advancing Excellence in Leadership and Management workshop on June 20, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the International Medical Group Building on 2960 North Meridian, Indianapolis, IN. The speaker is Bruce D. Friedman.

ISU Social Work Department presented Glenn with a retirement gift.

Dave highly encourages attendance at the Sexual Abuse for Boys conference.

Penny Pitcock was unavailable for a IV-B update.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: The next meeting will be held on May 25, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. in the second floor conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.